GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2523
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
ERADICATION OF LEPROSY
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leprosy is likely to be eradicated from India by the end of this year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States in which leprosy has been eradicated ; and

(d) the names of the States in which targets have been fixed to eradicate it during this year;

(e) the details regarding the efforts of Government to eradicate it from India;

(f) whether WHO is also assisting India in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) and (b) : Yes Sir, The country is likely to achieve elimination of leprosy i.e. prevalence rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 population by the end of December,2005. The prevalence rate has been showing a continuous decline over the past three years.

(c) : 24 States/UTs have already achieved level of elimination of leprosy i.e. prevalence rate of less than case per 10,000 population. These states/UTs are:- Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujrat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamilnadu, Tripura, Uttranchal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

(d) : The Government has not fixed any target for individual States/UTs.

(e) : The Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Eradication Programme for the elimination of Leprosy from the country. The details of the scheme are:-

i) Decentralization & Institutional Development under which State Leprosy Societies have been formed in 27 major States and District Leprosy Societies in all the Districts in the country which are responsible for proper planning, implementation, monitoring and timely corrective action.
ii) Integration of Leprosy Services with General Health care system in the country for better out-reach and utilization of services by community.
iii) Early Leprosy Case Detection and Free Multi Drug Therapy to all patients through all Government Primary Health Centres, dispensaries and Hospitals in the country.
iv) Intensified Public Awareness Campaigning through Mass Media as well a local media at periphery.
v) Training of General Health Care Staff in leprosy and in disability prevention and care.
vi) Prevention of deformities and care.

(f) and (g): Yes, Sir. The WHO has given following support to the NLEP:-

- Free supply of Anti-Leprosy Drugs.
- Support to State Leprosy Societies and Central Leprosy Division of the Directorate General Health Services by way of staff and equipment.
- Staff support for supervision and monitoring in priority states.
- Monitoring and Surveillance support by conducting Leprosy Monitoring Exercise (LME).
- Capacity building of District Chief Medical Officers.